

## CHAPTER XXVI. 1813.

Biots in Hamburg and Liibeck — Attempted suicide of M. Konning—Evacuation of Hamburg — Dissatisfaction at the conduct of General St. Cyr— The Cabinets of Vienna and the Tuileries — First appearance of the Cossacks— Colonel Tettenborn invited to occupy Hamburg — Cordial reception of the Russians —Depredations—Levies of troops—Testimonials of gratitude to Tettenborn — Napoleon's new army — Death of General Morand — Remarks of Napoleon on Van damme — Bonaparte and Gusta-vus Adolphus — Junction of the corps of Davoust and Vandamme — Re-occupation of Hamburg by the French — General Hogendorff appointed Governor of Hamburg — Exactions and vexatious contributions levied upon Hamburg and Liibeck — Hostages.

A CONSIDERABLE time before Napoleon left Paris to join the army, the bulk of which was in Saxony, partial insurrections occurred in many places. The interior of France proper was indeed still in a state of tranquillity, but it was not so in the provinces annexed by force to the extremities of the Empire, especially in the north, and in the unfortunate Hanse Towns, for which, since my residence at Hamburg, I have always felt the greatest interest.<sup>1</sup> The intelligence I received was derived from such unquestionable sources that I can pledge myself for the truth of what I have to state respecting the events which occurred in those provinces at the commencement of 1813; and subsequently I obtained a confirmation of all the facts communicated by my correspondents, when I was sent to Hamburg by Louis XVIII. in 1815.

<sup>1</sup> The total destruction of the French ascendancy was not looked on with entire satisfaction in Germany. Even Muffling, who says (p. 392) that the German armies advanced from Leipsic with the device, " Let all sinners be forgiven, and let there be no more hell " (*sin* being help to the French and hell their dominion ?), allows that some Germans still adhered to Napoleon; and he points out (p. 393) that though the Princes hated Napoleon, there were great difficulties from their wish to retain the position they owed to him. Even as late as about 1825 a Prussian officer of high rank said to Niebuhr: "A war with France would be rather critical. The temper of the people on the Rhine has greatly improved no doubt, but it were well that many an inveterate old talker should die out before these provinces are made the seat of war" (*Perthes*, tome ii. p. 319).